

# The JEFFERSON STATEMENT

MARK LEVIN

MARK MECKLER

MICHAEL FARRIS

*When the nation's finest legal minds gathered at the Jefferson Hotel in Washington, D.C., they set out to consider arguments for and against the use of Article V to restrain federal power. But like the Founding Fathers in 1787, they soon realized that they agreed unanimously that the Convention of States option is safe, effective, and necessary.*

*These experts, who subsequently signed the Jefferson Statement reproduced below, rejected the argument that a Convention of States is likely to be misused or improperly controlled by Congress. They shared the conviction that Article V provides the only constitutionally effective means to restore our federal system, and they formed the core of our Legal Board of Reference, whose names you can find on the opposite side of this document.*

The Convention of States mechanism is safe, and it is the only constitutionally effective means available to do what is so essential for our nation.

The Constitution's Framers foresaw a day when the federal government would exceed and abuse its enumerated powers, thus placing our liberty at risk. George Mason was instrumental in fashioning a mechanism by which "we the people" could defend our freedom—the ultimate check on federal power contained in Article V of the Constitution.

Article V provides the states with the opportunity to propose constitutional amendments through a process called a Convention of States. This process is controlled by the states from beginning to end on all substantive matters.

A Convention of States is convened when 34 state legislatures pass resolutions (applications) on an agreed topic or set of topics. The Convention is limited to considering amendments on these specified topics.

While some have expressed fears that a Convention of States might be misused or improperly controlled by Congress, it is our considered judgment that the checks and balances in the Constitution are more than sufficient to ensure the integrity of the process.

The Convention of States mechanism is safe, and it is the only constitutionally effective means available to do what is so essential for our nation—restoring robust federalism with genuine checks on the power of the federal government.

We share the Founders' conviction that proper decision-making structures are essential to preserve liberty. We believe that the problems facing our nation require several structural limitations on the exercise of federal power. While fiscal restraints are essential, we believe the most effective course is to pursue reasonable limitations, fully in line with the vision of our Founders, on the federal government.

Signed,

*Randy E. Barnett\**

*Charles J. Cooper\**

*John C. Eastman\**

*Michael P. Farris\**

*Robert P. George\**

*C. Boyden Gray\**

*Mark Levin\**

*Nelson Lund*

*Andrew McCarthy\**

*Mark Meckler\**

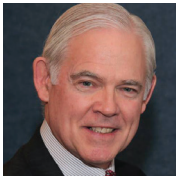
*Mat Staver*

*\*Original signers of the Jefferson Statement*

**“The Convention of States mechanism is safe, and it is the only constitutionally effective means available to do what is so essential for our nation.”**



**Randy E. Barnett** is a graduate of Harvard Law School and a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center. He represented the National Federation of Independent Business in its constitutional challenge to the Affordable Care Act.



**Charles J. Cooper** is a founding member and chairman of Cooper & Kirk, PLLC. A member of the Reagan Administration, Mr. Cooper has argued before the Supreme Court, and he spent much of his career defending constitutional rights as a top lawyer for the National Rifle Association.



**John C. Eastman** is the Founding Director of the Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence, a public interest law firm affiliated with the Claremont Institute. Prior to joining the Fowler School of Law faculty, he served as a law clerk with Justice Clarence Thomas at the Supreme Court of the United States and served in the Reagan administration.

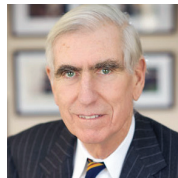


**Michael P. Farris** is the co-founder of the Convention of States Project, the Chancellor of Patrick Henry College, and Chairman of the Home School Legal Defense Association. During his career as a constitutional appellate litigator, he has served as lead counsel in the United States Supreme Court, eight federal

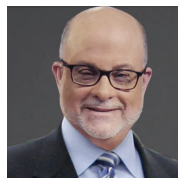
circuit courts, and the appellate courts of thirteen states. Mr. Farris is widely respected for his leadership in the defense of homeschooling, religious freedom, and the preservation of American sovereignty.



**Robert P. George** is one of the nation’s leading conservative legal scholars and is the founding director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions. He is chairman of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) and has served as a presidential appointee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights.



**C. Boyden Gray** is the founding partner of Boyden Gray & Associates, in Washington, D.C. Prior to founding his law firm, Ambassador Gray served as Legal Counsel to Vice President Bush (1981–1989), as White House Counsel in the administration of President George H.W. Bush (1989–1993), and as counsel to the Presidential Task Force on Regulatory Relief during the Reagan Administration.



**Mark Levin** is one of America’s preeminent constitutional lawyers and the author of several New York Times bestselling books including *Men in Black* (2007), *Liberty and Tyranny* (2010), *Ameritopia* (2012) and *The Liberty Amendments* (2013). Mr. Levin has served as a top advisor to several members of President Ronald Reagan’s Cabinet—including as Chief of Staff

to the Attorney General of the United States, Edwin Meese.



**Nelson Lund** is University Professor at George Mason University School of Law. After clerking for Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, he served in the White House as Associate Counsel to President George H.W. Bush.



**Andrew McCarthy** is a bestselling author, a Senior Fellow at National Review Institute, and a contributing editor at *National Review*. Mr. McCarthy is a former Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney in New York.



**Mark Meckler** is President of Convention of States Foundation, the parent organization of the Convention of States Project. Mr. Meckler is one of the nation’s most effective grassroots activists. After he co-founded and served as the National Coordinator of the Tea Party Patriots, he founded Citizens for Self-Governance in 2012 to bring the concept of “self-governance” back to American government.



**Mat Staver** is the Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel and also serves as Vice President of Liberty University, Professor of Law at Liberty University School of Law, and Chairman of Liberty Counsel Action.

Support the only solution that is as big as the problem.  
Sign the petition at [ConventionofStates.com](http://ConventionofStates.com).  
[www.conventionofstates.com](http://www.conventionofstates.com) [info@conventionofstates.com](mailto:info@conventionofstates.com)

